

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

Claims 3, 17, and 19-22 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits.

Claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18 are now pending in this application.

On April 4, 2006, the Examiner contacted the undersigned representative of the Applicants to issue a restriction requirement and an election requirement, and on April 21, 2006, the Examiner contacted the undersigned to discuss a proposed Examiner's Amendment. The Examiner had instructed the undersigned to:

1. Restrict the Application to either Claims 1-18 or Claims 19-22, and cancel claims as appropriate.
2. Identify and elect the species within the restricted claims.
3. Send any amendments to the claims that are to be considered prior to substantive examination to the Examiner via email (Kiran.Patel@USPTO.gov).
4. Authorize the Examiner to enter the amended claims contained herein as an Examiner's Amendment.

The Applicants respond as follows:

1. The Applicants restrict the Application to Claims 1-18, and have cancelled non-elected Claims 19-22 without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits.
2. The Applicants elect the species/embodiment recited in Claims 1, 7, and 10-16, which is shown, for example, in Figures 1-5.
3. The claims included herein contain amendments to Claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18 and cancellation of Claims 3, 17, and 19-22 without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits.
4. The Applicants authorize the Examiner to enter the amended claims contained herein as an Examiner's Amendment.

The Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 4, 2006

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